WHEREAS, on October 24, 2017, the Idaho Water Resource Board (IWRB) passed a resolution authorizing its chairman to execute the necessary agreements with the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) and to contribute the necessary fifty percent (50%) non-federal cost-share to carry out the Boise River Storage Feasibility Study (study); and

WHEREAS, in March 2018, the IWRB and Reclamation executed a Memorandum of Agreement to formalize the general scope of the study to include the evaluation of raises to the existing dams on the Boise River (Anderson Ranch, Arrowrock and Lucky Peak Dams) in order to provide additional water storage capacity; and

WHEREAS, Reclamation initiated the feasibility study under the authority of the Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009, P.L. 111-11, which authorized the study of projects to address water shortages in the Boise River system and sunsets in March 2019; and

WHEREAS, the Water Infrastructure Improvements for the Nation Act (WIIN Act, P.L. 114-322) provides a second authority for the study, and potentially design and construction. The act states that continuing authority only applies to projects determined to be feasible before January 1, 2021 and that projects can only receive Federal funds under the WIIN Act if recommended by the Secretary of the Interior and designated by name in Federal appropriations legislation; and

WHEREAS, Reclamation received $750,000 of WIIN Act funding in 2018 for the study and is continuing to pursue additional funding under the WIIN Act and through standard budget processes; and

WHEREAS, based on initial technical review of available information and completion of site visits of the three dams, Reclamation has concluded that an increase in reservoir storage at Arrowrock and Lucky Peak Dams is likely to be significantly more difficult than a raise of Anderson Ranch Dam due to the physical and procedural complexities associated with the facilities; and

WHEREAS, Reclamation concluded that evaluation of the feasibility of raises to all three dams will not be complete before January 1, 2021 and recommends focusing study efforts at this time on a raise of Anderson Ranch Dam; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the IWRB authorizes Reclamation to focus current study analyses on a raise of the Anderson Ranch Dam with the intent to determine project feasibility before January 1, 2021 in accordance with conditions of the WIIN Act, and acknowledges that the feasibility of small raises at Arrowrock and Lucky Peak Dams has not been determined but shall continue to be evaluated further in feasibility analyses as agreed upon by the IWRB. Reclamation is also authorized to complete land, structure, infrastructure and real estate impact assessments for all three reservoirs to provide
information for current and future feasibility analyses. Reclamation and IWRB shall consult upon the costs of the modified study scope.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the IWRB will continue to pursue an extension to the Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009, P.L. 111-11 and other authorities and encourages Reclamation to pursue authorization and funding under the WIIN Act and other authorities to achieve the greatest support for development of multi-purpose water projects in the Treasure Valley, including potential raises or increases in reservoir capacity of Anderson Ranch, Arrowrock and Lucky Peak Dams.

DATED this 27th day of July, 2018.

ROGER W. CHASE, Chairman
Idaho Water Resource Board